



# Meeting Notes

## Outdoor Lighting Focus Group Meeting

**2:00 p.m. – Tuesday, June 2, 2009**

APS Conference Room, 101 West Cherry Ave, Flagstaff, AZ

### **1. Welcome and Introductions**

#### In attendance:

Greg Brooks, City of Flagstaff  
Gerry Craig, Citizen  
Roger Eastman, City of Flagstaff  
John Grahame, Dark Skies Coalition  
Ed Larsen, City of Flagstaff  
Chuck Ley, City of Flagstaff  
Wes Lockwood, Citizen  
Steve Nelson, Dark Skies Coalition  
Amy Smith, RPI Services  
Mary Jo Tsitouris, City of Flagstaff

### **2. Recap Focus Group purpose**

Wes did a recap on the focus group ground rules and reiterated the purpose of the focus group. In summary, the Focus Groups will be outcome focused with a strong emphasis on general issues rather than getting into the details of technical code review. Decisions will be made for the benefit of the community, not personal agendas.

### **3. Discussion regarding outdoor lighting and related issues associated with the rewrite of the Land Development Code**

Roger introduced a new template to track and/or categorize main issues (attached).

Discussions on a lighting inventory database revealed that it would not be an element of the code, but more of an enforcement issue.

Outdoor lighting purpose; perhaps too astronomical. Possibly look at other model City codes to view their purpose and gain ideas

Elements identified to be incorporated into the outdoor lighting purpose:

- Astronomical observations
- Dark skies
- Energy efficient
- Natural resource and part of the natural environment
- Minimize light pollution & glare
- Safety, security & productivity
- Flexibility in lighting provision
- Night time aesthetics
- Enjoyment of the night sky
- Require rather than encourage
- Health benefits
- Tourism – by-product of dark sky
- Impact on wildlife – bird migration
- Promote good lighting design
- Strive to be a model dark sky city
- Great community value

City staff was asked to identify current problem sections in the code and where frequent violations occur.

Residential standards need to be clearer defined, including the issues with new manufactured homes. Roger stated that he will be showing a presentation on transects at the next meeting, which will include this issue.

Issues Roger plans to cover in the transect presentation also include: Splitting residential and commercial standards; retail business lighting; multi-family lighting (safety/design concerns); pedestrian lighting; color rendition (auto dealers & other business); and neon lighting.

It was agreed that there is a loop hole in the Code in reference to new lighting on existing buildings. This issue was moved to resolved issues to be passed on to the consultant.

More education is needed for the group regarding lumens verses “candle power” to allow for further discussion. Most codes cannot enforce “candle power” and are therefore based on lumens. Fixtures & lumens are defined in the Code. It’s not uncommon to have a compliant fixture, but a non-compliant bulb. Also need to revisit definitions of fixtures.

The group decided that further discussion is needed regarding landscape lighting, architectural lighting and other “up” lighting.

“Holiday” lighting is permitted in the code with defined durations. The group expressed a desire to place more restrictions on this use, but it was noted that precautions must be taken related to property owner rights.

Only 10% (or less) of the streets in Flagstaff are private streets. Private street requirements are unbalanced compared to those for public streets. Private streets should also comply with the standards for public streets, which are

defined in the Engineering Standards. This issue ties with ensuring coordination with the IBC and other codes and will be forwarded to the consultant.

The possible safety issues regarding inadequate lighting in multi-family areas was brought up for further discussion. Also, Downtown lighting appearing dingy and not conducive to the desired business.

Further discuss light curfews and enforcement issues associated with these curfews.

Updates to the sports lighting section, the issues regarding interior lighting spilling to exterior, and neon lighting will be forwarded to the consultant.

LED, CFL, motion sensors, and various other technology advances need to be addressed in the code. This issue will be forwarded to the consultant.

Further discuss the possibility of a "comprehensive lighting plan" to include incentives for removal of non-conforming lights.

The group was asked to work on prioritizing issues and possibly come up with new ideas to share at the next meeting.

4. Next meeting: June 16, 2009, at 2:00 pm.
5. Adjournment at 3:27 pm.

# Outdoor Lighting Focus Group Meeting

Summary Notes – June 2, 2009



RESOLVED ISSUES	FURTHER DISCUSSION
Ensure coordination with IBC and other codes - Street lights on private streets need to comply with Eng. Stds.	Revisit purpose – too astronomical? Broaden based on other communities - Energy efficiency also as a purpose
New lights on existing buildings – fix the loop hole	Identify problem sections in the code Where are there frequent violations? – staff input required
Interior lighting spilling to exterior	Clearer defined residential standards - Issues regarding new manufactured homes
Update sports lighting section – Wes to provide	Transect - Split residential and commercial Retail business lighting Multi-family lighting - safety/ design concerns Pedestrian lighting Color rendition (auto dealers and other businesses) Neon lighting (Route 66)
LED and CFL lighting – and other technology advances need to be addressed in code; motion sensors	Educate the group - Lumens verses “candle power”
Neon lighting only on Route 66 as part of sign design (historic areas)	Revisit definitions of fixtures, etc.
	Landscape lighting and other “up” lighting – architectural lighting
	Winter holiday lights – more restrictions?
	Light curfew (enforcement?) -Parking lots -Schools
	Consider “comprehensive lighting plan” similar to that for comp. sign plan?
	Incentives for removal of non-conforming lights?
	Cross reference to IDA list of dark sky approved/friendly fixtures
NOT APPLICABLE	NEW ITEMS

Lighting inventory	
Educational issues - Fixture availability -Residential/Commercial -City's webpage -Cityscape -Other -Additional handout materials	
Local merchants promote correct lights - Dark Sky compliance stickers	

**PURPOSE:** Statements/phrases that need to be included in the general Purpose statement include:

Astronomical observations  
 Dark skies  
 Energy efficient  
 Natural resource and part of natural environment  
 Minimize light pollution and glare  
 Safety, security and productivity  
 Flexibility in lighting provision  
 Night time aesthetics  
 Enjoyment of the night sky  
 Require rather than encourage  
 Health benefits  
 Tourism – by-product of dark sky  
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